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circumstances command, and the heroic sacrifices of the people require, anxious that it should approach to that degree of perfection which men are allowed to obtain, when they proceed with good faith, and with a desire of doing right, has decreed as follows:

1st. All wise Spaniards who have meditated on projects of Reform with respect to the constitution of the kingdom in general, as well as on the particular branches of public administration, are invited by the Junta to communicate their ideas with full liberty, and as they may judge may answer best for the good of their country.

2d. Those writings shall be sent to the Junta through the Secretary's office, within the term of two months from the date of this decree, and the authors will subscribe their names, or a mark by which they may be known in proper time.

3d. These Writings, after being examined in a summary way, the writers of those which are found to be really useful by the observations, or by the knowledge they contain, shall be called upon, in order to take a part in the commissions of *Reform*, which shall be immediately created.

4th. These Commissions shall be presided each by a member of the Junta, and in them will be examined and prepared the works which are to be presented for approbation.

5th. The projects approved of by the Junta shall be presented to the National Sanction, and from it will receive the character, the authority, and the force of law.

6th. The Junta does not anticipate its judgment, to prepossess the public opinion with respect to these projects: it only believes that it ought to announce from this moment certain principles, upon which the wish and desire of the nation has irrevocably resolved, and from which nothing that can be written or discussed on the subject of Reform, can alter. Those principles are reduced to the following:

The Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Religion, is the only Religion of the State.—The Constitution of Spain is to be a monarchy, hereditary in Fer-

dinand the 7th, his descendants, and those called by the Law to succeed them.—The nation is to be governed henceforward by the Laws freely deliberated, and administered—there shall be a *National Cortes*, in the manner and form which may be established, taking into consideration the difference and alterations which have taken place since the time when they were lawfully held.—*Our American and other colonies* shall be the same as the Metropolis in all Rights and Constitutional Prerogatives. The reform which our legal codes, administration, and recovery of public rents, and every thing belonging to the direction of commerce, agriculture, arts, education, as well national, marine, and warlike are to undergo, shall be only and exclusively directed to obtain the greatest ease, and the better illustration of the Spanish people, so horribly teazed until now.

7. The nation which shall be legally and solemnly constituted from . . .

On that day, the *General Cortes* of the Spanish monarchy, after being so long neglected, shall meet together for the first time.

BRITISH.

AT A MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF BRISTOL,
Convened at the Guildhall, the 26th of
May 1809.

WILLIAM COATES, esq. in the Chair.

It was Resolved, 1st. That at this momentous period, when the people are testifying the high sense they entertain of their superior rights as Britons, by the sacrifices they daily make of many of the comforts, if not of the necessities of life, for the maintenance and defence of the State, they have an undoubted right to insist that those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs, should at least abstain from undisguised profligacy and notorious corruption.

2. That Gwylliam Lloyd Wardle, esq. in his parliamentary exertions respecting the conduct of His Royal Highness the late Commander in Chief, displayed that zealous vigilance for the public welfare, that clear discernment, that pure disinterestedness, that inextinguishable ardour, and that unshaken constancy, which characterise the true patriot. That he has thereby justly acquired the admiration and gratitude of every uncorrupted member of the community, and he is requested to accept this heartfelt acknowledgement from the Citizens of Bristol now assembled.

That our thanks are due to Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. for the consistency of his conduct in seconding Mr. Wardle's motion for inquiry, to lord Folkstone for his early and steady support of the measure; to Mr. Whitbread and Sir Samuel Romilly, for their able exertions during its progress; and to general Ferguson, lord Archibald Hamilton, Mr. Madocks, and such other members of the house of commons, as by their virtuous co-operation proved themselves to be the actual representatives of the people.

4th. That during the late inquiry, we observed with the deepest regret, that in an assembly of persons styling themselves the representatives of the people, the influence of public opinion was unblushingly condemned, and its legitimacy openly denied; but we triumph in the reflection, that the authority which his majesty's ministers dared to revile, they have found themselves compelled to obey.

5th. That we consider the late happy detection of Lord Castlereagh in his foul attempt on the constitution, as a pledge on the part of the virtuous representatives of the people, that they will not slumber at their posts until our formidable enemy, corruption, be completely subdued.

6th. That we look with confidence to a speedy and effectual reform of the commons house of parliament, as the only means of rooting out corruption; and in effecting reform, we earnestly deprecate the insidious interference of those who are themselves profiting by the continuance of state Abuses and Reversionary Sinecures.

7th. That we seek no other reform than such as shall insure to us the restoration of that free and glorious constitution which our forefathers so bravely acquired, which they again and again so manfully asserted, and which they so religiously transmitted to their posterity as their best, their inalienable birthright.

8th. That our thanks are due to Mr. John Winter, jun. and the other independent citizens at whose instance this meeting was convened.

9th. That copies of these resolutions be subscribed by the chairman in the name of the meeting, and be transmitted by him to Mr. Wardle, Sir Francis Burdett, lord Folkstone, Sir S. Romilly, Mr. Whitbread, General Ferguson, Lord A. Hamilton, and Mr. Madocks.

10th. That our acknowledgements are due to Mr. Matthew Mills Coates, for the Resolutions this day adopted, and for his zealous and able exertions on the present occasion.

11th. That the proceedings of this day be inserted in all the Bristol Newspapers, the Morning Chronicle, the Star, and the Globe.

W. COATES, Chairman.

The thanks of the meeting were then voted to the chairman, for his able and impartial conduct.

MR. ERSKINE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

Copy of a Dispatch from Mr. Secretary Canning to the Hon. D. M. Erskine, Dated Foreign Office, 23d January, 1809.

SIR.—If there really exist in those individuals who are to have a leading share in the new administration of the United States, that disposition to come to a complete and cordial understanding with Great Britain, of which you have received from them such positive assurances; in meeting that disposition it would be useless and unprofitable to recur to a recapitulation of the causes from which the differences between the two Governments have arisen, or of the arguments already so often repeated in support of that system of retaliation to which his Majesty has unwillingly had recourse—That system his Majesty must unquestionably continue to maintain, unless the object of it can be otherwise accomplished. But after the profession on the part of so many of the leading Members of the Government of the United States, of a sincere desire to contribute to that object in a manner which should render the continuance of the system adopted by the British Government unnecessary, it is thought right that a fair opportunity should be offered to the American Government to explain its meaning, and give proof of its sincerity. The extension of the interdiction of the American harbours to the ships of war of France as well as of Great Britain, is, as stated in my former dispatch, an acceptable symptom of the system of impartiality towards both Belligerents; the first that has been publicly manifested by the American Government. The like extension of the Non-importation Act to other Belligerents is equally proper in this view. These measures remove those preliminary objections, which must otherwise have precluded any useful or amicable discussion. In this state of things, is it possible for Great Britain to entertain propositions, which while such manifest partiality was shown to her enemies, were not consistent either with her dignity or her interests.

From the report of your conversation with Mr. Madison, Mr. Gallatin, and Mr. Smith, it appears—1st, That the American Government is prepared, in the event of his Majesty's consenting to withdraw the